



REMARKS

Claims 15-21 are pending.

Claims 1-14 have been canceled and new claims 15-21 have been added. The specification has been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 15 is patentable over the cited references because they do not teach or suggest packing elements each having a plurality of crimped sheets wherein at least some of the crimped sheets of each packing element have at least some corrugations with a crimp angle extended to the interface between successive packing elements, the crimp angle varying progressively in the vicinity of at least one of the interfaces. The specification at page 3, lines 8-14 and page 6, lines 13-30 describes this feature.

For example, West German 1253673 merely discloses gaps between adjacent packing elements, but not progressively varying crimp angle. Korsell discloses gaps between adjacent layers, but also fails to teach progressively varying crimp angle.

EP 394718 discloses plates that are corrugated, using two sinusoidal undulations, offset by the height of the trapezium. The embodiment shown in Fig. 1 has straight channels without varying crimp angles. The embodiment shown in Fig. 4 has plates with sinusoidal undulations. As illustrated more clearly in the drawing attached hereto, there is no disclosure of varying crimp angles.

Japanese Patent Abstract 06312101 merely discloses a packing with separate devices arranged between packing elements, and does not teach progressively varying crimp angles.

Billingham et al. discloses a packing arrangement having a plurality of vertically oriented diagonally cross corrugated packing sheets. Billingham et al. is also devoid of any teaching or suggestion for crimp sheets with varying crimp angles.

Claims 16-21 depend from claim 15, and are submitted to be patentable as being directed to additional features of the present invention as well as by being dependent on allowable claim 15. For instance, claim 17 recites that the corrugations change direction

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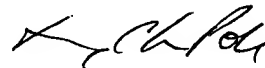
progressively between the interfaces of the packing elements so that intermediate portions of the corrugations between the terminal portions are inclined relative to the direction of fluid flow, where the terminal portions intersect the interfaces at an angle of up to 90°. Claim 19 recites that at least some of the corrugations have a localized reduction in depth in the vicinity of at least one of the interfaces. These features are absent from the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



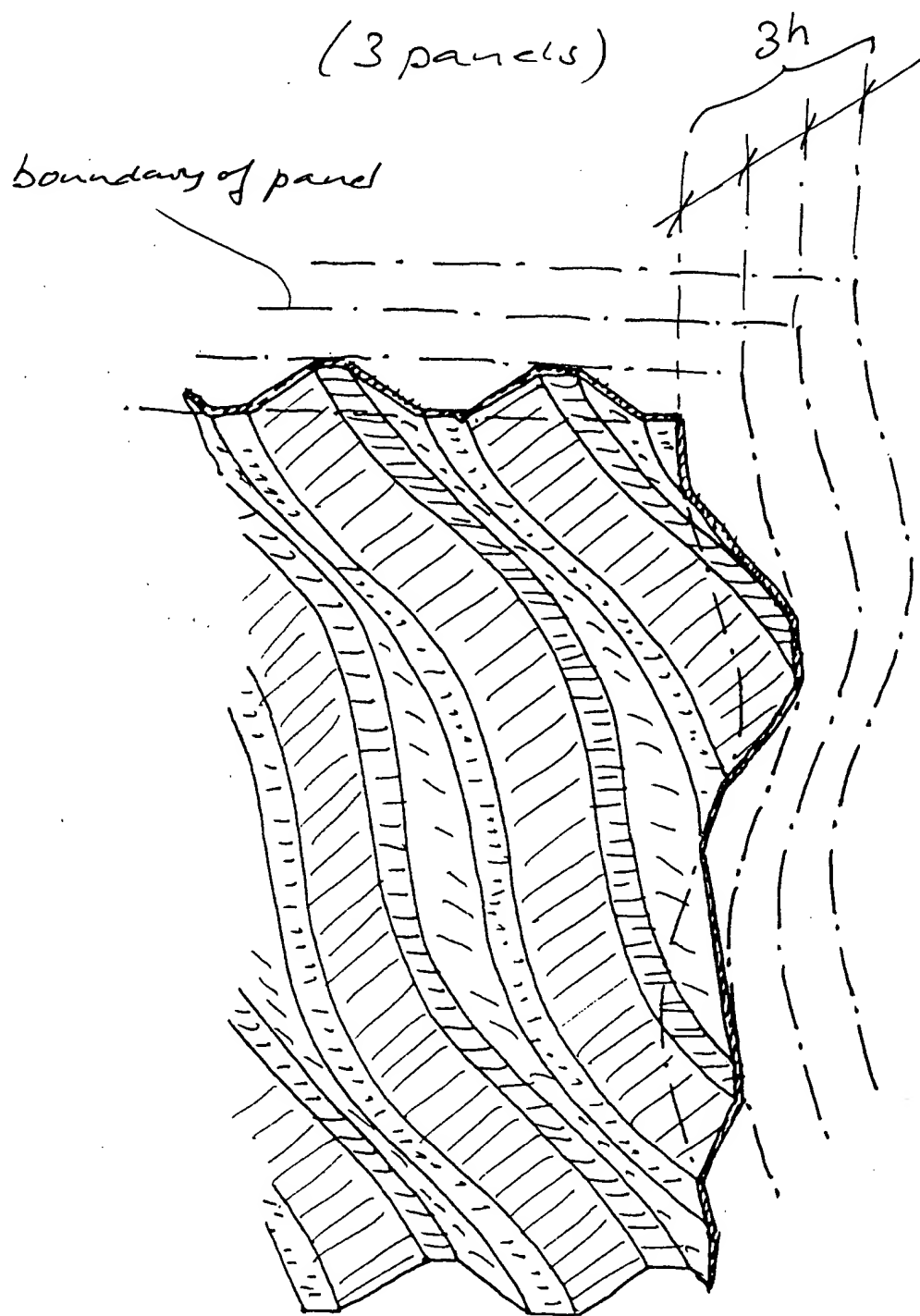
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Attachment: Drawing

SF 1047111 v1





EP-A 0394 718
US 5167 879

Panel, shaped by sinusoidal wave
(see Fig 2)